

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

JESUS WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL – PART II

Luke 4:5-8 “Then the devil took Him up and revealed to Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to You if You will worship me.” Jesus replied, “The Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the LORD your God and serve only Him.’”

As you continue this devotion with me based on the Devil’s temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, I share a personal observation. The Devil’s temptations sometimes surround the small things in life such as “bread,” but he also is known to tempt with “big things” such as offering Jesus the “kingdoms of the world” and “authority over them.” If bread would not entice and seduce Jesus to sin perhaps this offer would.

What does the Devil need to offer you before you will succumb to his temptation? If it is not overeating, overconsumption of alcohol or telling small untruths, just what would it take? How about money? How about a billion dollars? Would you sell your soul for that amount? Or, if not money, would it be a showplace home, a luxury car or a dream vacation?

Jesus told a parable about a farmer who put his faith and trust in his crops and the storage of them. When the harvest had been bountiful and the granary was overflowing, the farmer was confident in what he had produced and stored to take care of his life. Do you remember Jesus’ closing words to this parable? “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” (Luke 13:21)

Idolatry is a sin that is often not recognized. Placing one’s faith and trust in a full granary is foolish. Having all the kingdoms of the world and the authority over them has no bearing upon your eternal life. Instead, the truth is what St. Paul wrote to Timothy, “Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can’t take anything with us when we leave it. So, if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.” (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

Prayer: Lord, guard me from temptations of worldly goods and earthly authority and power. Grant me instead faith in Jesus, forgiveness of my sins and eternal life with You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

“When through fiery trials your pathway will life,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

“Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”
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